



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,710	07/15/2002	Graeme Deaker	TJK/216	3993
27717	7590	11/05/2007	EXAMINER	
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP			AGWUMEZIE, CHARLES C	
131 S. DEARBORN ST., SUITE2400				
CHICAGO, IL 60603-5803				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/069,710

Applicant(s)

DEAKER ET AL.

Examiner

Charlie C. Agwumezie

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 43-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 43-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/27/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment

1. Applicants amendments filed on August 10, 2007 is acknowledged. Accordingly claims 1-42 are cancelled and claims 43-75 are newly added and remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 75 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The examiner has reviewed the specification and has not been able to find in any part within the specification that would support the phrase "stored value instrument". Clarification and correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 43, 74 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al U.S. Patent No. 6,193,155 in view of Druckenmiller et al U.S. Patent No. 6,167,435.

As per **claim 43, 74 and 75**, Walker et al discloses a method of validating a goods/service voucher comprising:

generating alphanumeric token information associated with the goods/service voucher, the token information being communicable via both computer and non-computer means to an end user, and storing the token information and voucher information in a database, wherein each goods/service voucher has associated stored voucher information and stored token information stored in the database (col. 5, lines 5-25; ...a gift certificate may be any instrument or token...);

receiving voucher information and token information corresponding to the goods/service voucher (col. 5, lines 5-25; ...gift certificate...; col. 11, lines 10-20; ...receiving the gift certificate and the security code...);

comparing the received voucher information and the received token information with the database (col. 10, lines 15-30; ...compares certificate with stored....; col. 11,

lines 10-35; ...matches the stored security code associated with the certificate identifier....);

determining whether the received voucher information and the received token information matches the stored voucher information and the stored token information (col. 11, lines 10-35; ...matches the stored security code associated with the certificate identifier....); and

generating an output to a user indicating that the voucher is valid if the received voucher information and the received token information match the stored voucher information and the stored token information (see fig. 13; output message indicating denial of redemption....; col. 11, lines 20-35; ...transmits authorization code indicating that the transaction is approved or declined...);

wherein the voucher information and token information may be received by the database via any one of the plurality of pathways, including via computer and non-computer means (see fig. 13; ...transmitted via network...).

What Walker et al does not explicitly disclose is generating random alphanumeric token.

Druckenmiller et al discloses a random alphanumeric token (col. 4, lines 55-67; ...preferably, tokens may be generated randomly...).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Walker et al and incorporate a method wherein random alphanumeric token is generated in view of the teachings of Druckenmiller et al in order to ensure adequate security.

4. **Claims 44-73 and 76-78**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 3 103 as being unpatentable over Walker et al U.S. Patent No. 6,193,155 and Druckenmiller et al U.S. Patent No. 6,167,435 and further in view of any of Manasse (WO 97/03423(both cited by applicant), Scroggie et al (6014634) or Jacoves et al (6741968) or Fortenberry et al (WO 99/30256).
5. Regarding the network limitations of **claim 44**, Fortenberry et al (See abstract, Figs. 1-4, pages 2,3, page 5, lines 1-40 claims 1-15) disclose issuing an electronic coupon recorded in a database over a network and subsequently compared with same upon redemption for goods or services which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.
6. Regarding the delivery limitations of **claim 45**, Fortenberry et al (See abstract, Figs. 1-4, pages 2,3, page 5, lines 1-40 claims 1-15) disclose issuing an electronic coupon recorded in a database over a network and subsequently compared with same upon redemption for goods or services which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.
7. Regarding the order limitations of **claim 46**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), 'Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1,5, 10-13,15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2,8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing, which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

Art Unit: 3621

8. Regarding the order limitations of **claims 47**, Manasse (see 'abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

9. Regarding the web limitations of **claims 47**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

10. Regarding the web limitations of **claims 48**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

11. Regarding the web limitations of **claim 49**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

12. Regarding the user limitations of **claim 50**, Fortenberry et al (See abstract, Figs. 1-4, pages 2, 3, page 5, lines 1-40 claims 1-15) disclose issuing an electronic coupon

Art Unit: 3621

recorded in a database over a network and subsequently compared with same upon redemption for goods or services which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

13. Regarding the network limitations of **claim 51**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

14. Regarding the beneficiary limitations of **claim 52**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations because manufacturers distribute coupons electronically to a plurality of customers.

15. Regarding the redemption limitations of **claims 53-60**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et. al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

16. Regarding the processing limitations of **claims 61-64**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1, 5, 10-13, 15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2, 8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing

Art Unit: 3621

which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations because these are no more than the standard processing of coupons.

17. Regarding the image limitations of **claims 65-68**, Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1,5, 10-13,15-18) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing including image(See Fig. 11) which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations because these are no more than the standard processing of coupons.

18. Regarding the delivery limitations of **claims 69-73**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12), Scroggie et al (See abstract, Figs. 1,5, 10-13,15-18) or Jacoves et al (See abstract, Figs. 2,8, 10, 25) show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing and email which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

19. Regarding the bank limitations of **claims 76-78**, Manasse (see abstract, Figs. 3-5, pages 2-3, page 11, lines 15-20, claims 1-12). show network distributed tokens or vouchers for goods or services including web linked processing in an electronic bank equivalent which is a functional equivalent of the claim limitations.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 43-75 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

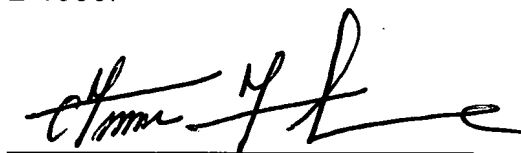
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Andrew Fischer** can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6779**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Charlie Lion Agwumezie
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

Acc
October 22, 2007.



ANDREW J. FISCHER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600